The Cleveland Museum of Art
A world of great art for everyone

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling
An illustrated talk at The Cleveland Museum of Art
By internationally best selling author Ross King

CLEVELAND (Jan. 7, 2004) — The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) presents an evening with internationally best selling author Ross King, who will give a slide talk and Q-and-A about his current *New York Times* bestseller ***Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling*** (Penguin, November 2003). This event will be held on **Friday, Jan. 16, from 7 to 8 p.m.** in Gartner Auditorium, followed by a public reception and book signing with King.

Tickets to the lecture are available for $15, CMA members $10, students $5 by calling the Ticket Center at (216) 421-7350 or 1-888-CMA-0033 or buying online at www.ClevelandArt.org.

Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling offers an artisan's-eye view of Rome between 1508 to 1512 and the atmosphere surrounding the creation of the world-famous Sistine Chapel frescoes. King, a master storyteller, describes the bitter the rivalry between Michelangelo and Raphael, who was simultaneously working on a project next door to the chapel. King reveals how Michelangelo experimented with the composition of pigment and plaster and how he executed hundreds of drawings, one of which is in the CMA's permanent collection, to perfect his masterpiece that to this day draws tens of thousands of visitors each year.

Born and raised in Canada, Ross King has lived in England since 1992. His writing career began in 1995. He originally planned a career in academia, earning his Ph.D. in English Literature. King's previous bestseller, *Brunelleschi's Dome: How a Renaissance Genius Reinvented Architecture* (Penguin, 2001) was inspired by the author's reading of a brief account of the building of Florence's famed Duomo of Santa Maria del Fiori in Giorgio Vasari's 16th-century *Lives of the Artists*. The book was an instant hit in the U.S.: a 2001 Book Sense Nonfiction Book of the Year and a *New York Times* bestseller.

The Cleveland Museum of Art receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The Museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the Museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

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